

Head Quarters 114th N. Y. Vols.
Near Summit Point Va., April 13th 1865

Dear Brother,

Your letter of the 5th inst. was rec'd the 9th and this is the first good opportunity that I have had to answer it. We started on an expedition up the Valley, but did not go far, only to Reamstown(?) where we stayed two days, and then marched back to Milltown about a mile and a half ~~from~~ above Winchester, where we stayed two days longer, there we got orders from Gen. Hancock that all boots & overcoats and dress coats should be burnt at the head of each company street at retreat, and no enlisted man would be allowed to have them in his possession, that was ~~for~~ because our Regt. & the 116th yelled boots at him as we passed his Hd. Qrs. in Winchester. We had an order to send our boots to the rear before we left camp Sheridan. I did not have any so it did not effect me at all. I have got an overcoat, but I hid it when we had the inspection so I keep it. We left Milltown day before yesterday the 11th in an awful rainstorm it rained most all day and was very bad travelling and arrived here just after dark it being a distance of about 22 miles. I did not walk only part of the way. I had my knapsack carried with Adjts. things but I was so lame that I could not keep up. I do not get any better of the rheumatism, have been a great deal worse since we left Camp Sheridan, the Doctor was agoing to send me to the rear when we left there, but I *prefered* going along as I ~~did~~ ~~not~~ would not have any gun to carry, or knapsack, and thought I could keep along, but don't think we will have any more marching to do. I hope not. I think the confederacy has about played out any how, if it is not it will mighty soon.

Well, I have no more news to write. I wrote to mother while we was at Milltown. Give my love to all, and write soon.

Yours Truly,

John F. Brand